



Church of Saint Cecilia

2357 Bayless Place • Saint Paul, MN 55114

651.644.4502

Fax 651.647.1445 • www.stceciliaspm.org

Weekly Masses:

Saturday 4:30 & Sunday 8:15 & 10:00

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45

WELCOME

To join the parish, please call the office at 651.644.4502.

TEMPORARY PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
10:00am to 1:00pm

HE CALLED YOU OUT OF
THE DARKNESS INTO
His wonderful light

1 PETER 2:9

PARISH STAFF

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Trustees

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The Church of Saint Cecilia

A pastor's epistle:

I've been interested in viewing how other parishes and media outlets have been broadcasting the Sunday liturgy during this time of the virus. In many instances, these strike me as being a "clerical sideshow." The viewer is often made aware of a sea of empty pews that surround the sanctuary "island" inhabited only by a vested clergyman or two. An occasional lay person enters the space (a single lector or cantor) and then disappears. The absence of any community presence is especially dramatic when these liturgies are celebrated in large cathedrals or other spacious assembly halls. The blessing of our St. Cecilia space is that it is smaller and more intimate. In recording our liturgies, our decision not to have the camera pan the empty pews may have concealed the sad reality of the glaring absence of community. I think, though, that having a rotating variety of lectors and cantors serving us and the favorable acoustic in our small space lends a sense of familiar normalcy to what we have been sharing. The challenge facing our church, nonetheless, is how to be less clerical. How well are we able to reclaim the baptismal vocation entrusted to every member of our church? How can we resist the notion that ministry is something that others "perform" for us? Last Sunday's Good Shepherd theme has often given it the name "Vocation Sunday." The following reflection was written by Thomas O'Loughlin, a priest of the Catholic diocese of Arundel and Brighton and professor of historical theology at the University of Nottingham (UK) and appeared in the on-line publication La Croix.

John Hofstede

First, we think that a vocation is equivalent to becoming a full-time religious person: someone who takes on all that is associated with "a priest". How often have I heard a man say, "I have no vocation", when what he meant was that he did not want to be a cleric. Second, it forgets that every formal ministry – such as that of being a presbyter (priest) – is but a part of an individual Christian's vocation. Let's try to unravel this.

Every Christian has a vocation – it is wrapped up in the particularity of your life. You see the need there in front of you, you know what can be done, and what you can do, and you respond: this is the essence of vocation.

It is constant in that we are always being called to build the kingdom in response to the Spirit's promptings and empowered for what is needed by the Spirit. There is no vacation from vocation, but what it calls us to do is ever changing.

Discovering one's calling

A friend of mine now has discovered that he has the skills of a teacher because he has to help in home-schooling his two kids during this crisis. I know someone else who led prayer, i.e. presided at a liturgy, in their family for the first time on Easter Sunday. Another has discovered the skills of the listener as lonely people need to talk, and this list goes on and on. As I move through the demands of my life I am called to use my gifts to build the kingdom of holiness, grace, justice, peace and love.

Then there are fixed ministries: skills we need as a Church. We need those who can read, interpret and preach. We need people who have the skill to gather a community around them. We need those who can lead people in prayer. We have to identify people who show these skills, and then help them to develop them and make them better in their tasks. Instead of recruitment for a special corps of clergy, we should think of finding ministers more in terms of a job-search or skills audit in a community.

If we believe that the Spirit is moving in the community of the baptized, then a 'vocations crisis' is nonsense. It is only a crisis of us failing to look, train, and empower. Or maybe – just as in so many other areas of life – we have got it all so confused that we cannot see the wood for the trees.

continued on next page

Stewardship-Fiscal Year

July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

Financial Information ending

March 31:

Anticipated Collections \$272,080

Actual Collections \$261,006

Major Gifts \$53,749

Building Fund Contributions \$15,485

Other Revenues \$10,630

Total Income \$340,870

Budgeted Expenses \$298,875

Actual Expenses \$270,558

Major Repairs \$8,499

Principal Payments on Debt \$11,635

Total Expenditures \$290,692

Revenue Over Expenses \$50,177

Debt Outstanding \$58,879

Alms Box Balance as of April 26 \$733.13

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6: 1-7

A quarrel developed between Greek-speaking disciples and those who spoke Hebrew and was solved by ordaining the first deacons to care for widows and the needy among the former. Many Jewish priests embraced the faith.

Psalm (21)22. 26-26, 28. 30. 31-32.

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1 Peter 2: 4-9

In this continuation of an early Christian baptismal liturgy, Peter compares Christians to "Living stones...a holy priesthood" and to "a stone rejected."

John 14: 1-12

Jesus prepares many dwelling places in his Father's house. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Whoever sees Jesus, sees the Father.

Recorded Sunday Liturgies

Our recorded liturgies will be available for viewing late Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings. The link will be included in the weekly parish wide email or you may also find it on the homepage of our website at www.stceciliaspam.org.

This coronavirus crisis is throwing all our assumptions into the air! Where they will land we do not yet know, we do not know if things will really change or slip back to "normal". But after this latest "Vocations Sunday" we might make a start on a new way of living. Our focus today would not be on clergy recruitment, but on helping each Christian to see that she/he has a vocation as they respond to needs in their community.

This is a hard process of listening and then there is the challenge of doing. Then later we might find that individuals also have skills in the communities' worship. These people would be identified by a process of community discernment (can this person lead prayer and interpret the demands of discipleship for us?), rather than by a willingness to accept a priori criteria from a bygone age (e.g. male, celibate, full-time and willing to belong within a clerical corps).

COMMUNITY NEWS

Food Drive

At this time we are only accepting monetary donations for our neighborhood food shelf. Checks payable to St. Cecilia with a notation of "food drive" may be mailed to the parish office at 2357 Bayless Place, St. Paul, MN 55114. Thank you.



Graduates

We're planning to recognize our high school/college graduates in an upcoming bulletin. If you would like your name with school published, please let us know by Monday, May 18th. Email bulletin@stceciliasp.org or call the parish office at 651.644.4502.

Pope Francis' Universal Intentions for the Challenges of Humanity May 2020

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you sent your disciples
to proclaim to all the kingdom of
Heaven, not just with words,
but also with works of mercy.
We ask you for all who,
in your Church, live the diaconate as a
mission.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
Encourage them, together with their
families,
to announce your Word with ardour
and manifest your tenderness and mercy
to the little ones,
the poorest and excluded.
Enrich your Church
With more deacon vocations.
Our Father...*

Helping Others

If you know of someone in our community who needs help with grocery shopping, a phone call to stay connected, etc., please call the parish office at 651.644.4502. Thank you.

Marriage Enrichment

In these Coronavirus days try this: Look through old photo albums and tell each other stories of your childhood and families. Reminisce about your earlier days together. You do not know everything about each other! If you have kids, they might like to be in on it too.

Mulch, mulch!

Looking for something to do outside? We've been using brown colored mulch around our plantings in front of the church and parish center. They are generally on sale at garden centers and grocery stores like Cub. Pick up a bag or two and spread them around. Don't just drop them off for someone else to spread, though. Our pastor writes, "I may be an old goat, but my doctor said to stay off the slopes for awhile."

OUT AND ABOUT

Plant Sale

The St. Anthony Park Garden Club presents a Covid-Safer Plant Sale. Pollinator plants, herbs and vegetables. Co-sponsored by the St. Anthony Park Community Council. Net proceeds donated to purchase PPE for St. Paul EMS. Pre-order now through May 20th. Curbside pick up on Saturday, May 23rd. Place your order at : stanthonyparkgardenclub.com Question: sapgsale@gmail.com After you submit and pay for your order, you will be given a link to schedule your pickup and be given directions.

FAITH FORMATION



First Eucharist

Congratulations to

Liam F.
(Parents, Jim & Therese F.)

who is celebrating the Sacrament of First Eucharist and joining us at the Lord's table.

Our students are receiving the sacrament of First Eucharist one at a time at the recorded Masses over the next few months.



Thomas O.
First Eucharist May 2nd

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun	Mother's Day Food Drive
Prayer Ministry: If you have an intention you wish prayed for, please call the parish office at 651.644.4502 or complete the form on our website (Community/Prayer Ministry tab).	
Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Email info to bulletin@stceciliasp.org .	



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